

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DYNAMICALLY BOUNDED
SPINNING THREADS ON A CONTESTED MUTEX

10 A method for managing a mutex in a data processing
system is presented. For each mutex, a count is
maintained of the number of threads that are spinning
while waiting to acquire a mutex. If a thread attempts
to acquire a locked mutex, then the thread enters a spin
state or a sleep state based on restrictive conditions
15 and the number of threads that are spinning during the
attempted acquisition. In addition, the relative length
of time that is required by a thread to spin on a mutex
after already sleeping on the mutex may be used to
regulate the number of threads that are allowed to spin
20 on the mutex.